



**CHRIS C. OYNES**

**Regional Director**

**Gulf of Mexico Region**

**Minerals Management Service**

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Mr. Chris Oynes is the Regional Director for the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region of Minerals Management Service. As the Regional Director, Mr. Oynes manages the leasing of the OCS lands for oil, gas, and other mineral development, and supervises the regulation of operations and protection of the environment on those leases which involve 4,000 platforms. This area covers the five Gulf Coast States. He manages a staff of 550, comprised of geologists, geophysicists, petroleum engineers, biologists, and environmental scientists.

Mr. Oynes received in 1998 a Presidential Award as a Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service of the Federal Government. Mr. Oynes has received the two highest honor awards that the U.S. Department of the Interior bestows.

Mr. Oynes holds a BA in Political Science from California State University at Fullerton and a Juris Doctor Degree from George Washington University. He has 30 years of Federal Government experience with energy matters. He served 11 years in Washington, D.C., with MMS in various capacities, including Chief of the Lease Sale Planning Branch and the Leasing Division. He served for 7 years as the Deputy Regional Director in the Gulf for MMS and has been Regional Director for 12 years.

MMS is the Federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in FY 2004 and more than \$143 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

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Gulf of Mexico Website: [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)

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